

August 6, 2024, Steele County Commission Meeting

The Steele County Commission meeting was called to order at 7:59 am. Present were Commissioners Perry Brown, Brandon Krueger, Richard Strand, and Brandon Oxtan. Also present, Auditor Jana Flaten. Commissioner Chris Grandalen attended via Zoom.

Commissioner Krueger made a motion to approve the July minutes, second by Commissioner Oxtan. No further discussion, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

Commissioner Krueger made a motion to approve the agenda amendment (Recorder book preservation), second by Commissioner Oxtan. No further discussion, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

Clerk of Court/Recorder Sady Kjørven discussed a few recorded books that are damaged and will need to be fixed. It was discussed do use her preservation fund to get them fixed.

Flaten discussed a new holding account for the courthouse project. The reason to have this is so the general fund won't need to budget for large amounts each year as the leftover funds year to year will be placed in this fund for when bigger project is needed at the courthouse. And the general fund won't need to budget large amounts for the projects. Commissioner Strand made a motion to transfer \$125,000.00 to this new holding fund account from the capital fund project. second by Commissioner Oxtan. No further discussion, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

Public Health administrator Hannha Zamora gave un updated n the public health office. School vaccine letters have been sent out to all kids that need school vaccines. Ashton will be working on the tobacco program and training. Home visits are going well as well as offering blood pressure and glucose testing. Zamora went over grant funding and numbers. She as planned a day to go over to Nelson/Griggs and will be getting trained on paper billing and claims.

Zamora gave a brief update on Steele County night out. She has contacted City of Hope and has gone over the plans with them.

Sheriff Wayne Beckman talked about the cleaning of the courthouse. Power wash and window cleaning. Commissioner Krueger made a motion to approve the quote price of \$15,660.00 for power washing and window cleaning. Second by Commissioner Oxtan. No further discussion, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

Commissioner Strand 0made a motion to approve the Township Road Mill Cert, second by Commissioner Oxtan. No further discussion, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

Weed Board Administrator Macey Ard discussed the Melrose township complaint and how the board is going to move forward. Commissioner Krueger had talked to both parties involved and the landowner as agreed to spray for the noxious weeds and should be under control after the spraying. Ard will monitor the crops and land to make sure everything is going well.

Road Superintendent Reed Oien discussed the ongoing crack sealing on Co Rd 5. They have completed 8-10 miles and should be done in 4-5 days. He's been in contract with Ottertail Power about making an approach for where the new wind tower will go. Ottertail Power will be doing on the road work and Oien will over see if any problems arise. Oien as also made calls to Game and Fish (Fullers Lake) and farmers to remind them about mowing the ditches.

Mike Bassingthwaite with Interstate Engineering discussed the courthouse parking lot which will be worked on this coming Thursday and Friday. AS talked about CO Rd 18 and the completion date of September 27<sup>th</sup>. If it is not completed by that day there is a 2000.00 a day penalty. Construction company as not got a permit for the Railroad crossing yet but hoping to have that by end of the week. The Commissioners asked if there would be funding issues if the project is not completed this year. There are no issues with the funding as century code states funds need to be used by end of 2025. Bassingthwaite disused the construction company (Zavoral) has asked for 5-7 days grace

period for the completion penalty as they are over booked due to weather issues. Commissioner Strand made the motion to give them a 5-day grace period if they come and get the in-town paving done by end of August. If they don't the original completion date will be used, and Zavoral will need to pay the penalty. seconded by Commissioner Krueger. No further discussion, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

Co Ro 5 update- won't be open until the end of week. Finishing work will be done this fall. Courthouse parking lot update was given. Extra work was done on the north end of the parking lot. The pavement was so thin and patched work was done years ago. The paving should be done by the end of the week and ready to use next week.

Culvert in Easton and Greenview township will be started on Aug 27<sup>th</sup> will keep everyone update on this project.

Steele County Water Resource- chairman Josh Ihry discussed current project they are working on. Drain 11- removal of old structures, replacing with new culverts and moving water back to the original flow. Drain 6 bid for removal of old structures and replacing them with new culverts they should have bids in by end of August. Drain 1 completion date is October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The Steele County Dam has been very wet this spring and summer making it unstable for workers. They hope to have the new box culverts and pavement done by the middle of October.

Veterans Services officer Dennis Kubischta discussed the 4 unmarked graves in Riverside. They date back to around 1862. He would like to see the identified if possible and markers for each grave. He also would like to see a fence area along with a sign explaining who the soldiers were. He would like to use maintenance free material to make it last for years to come. He talked with ND senators, US Dept of Veterans and local American Legions to track these graves down and to fund the project. He's hoping there is no cost to the county for this project. Commissioner Strand made a motion to appoint Dennis to the project and give permission to take this on. Second by Commissioner Krueger. No further discussion, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

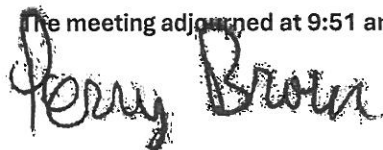
A motion was made to take a 5 min recess by Strand, seconded by Commissioner Oxton. No further discussion, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

Flaten discussed the budget and that it will need to be approved for the preliminary budget. And after Aug 10 the budget can't be raised by any amount only lowered. Commissioners look over budget and levies for 2025. Commissioner Krueger made a motion to approve the preliminary budget second by Commissioner Oxton. The Commissioners will go over the budget and make cuts, if necessary, before the regular commissioner meeting in October. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Commissioner Strand made a motion to approve bills, second by Commissioner Krueger. No further discussion, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Strand, seconded by Commissioner Oxton. No further discussion, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:51 am.



Chairman Perry Brown



Auditor Jana Flaten